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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 64, ISSUE NO. 1

FEBRUARY 23, 2005

It's YOUR NEWSPAPER

Campus Tagged By Vandals

■ Vandal responsible for tagging campus remains at large.

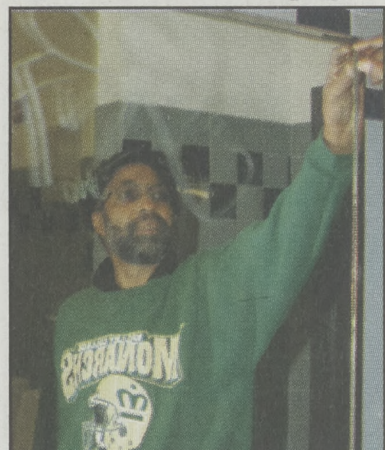
By TIFFANY FARMAKIS
DESIGN EDITOR

The mirrors have been scratched and the walls have been tagged with the initials "BLEK" engraved throughout the newly renovated men's restrooms of the Math/Science and Campus Center buildings.

According to Tom Lopez, Valley College facilities manager, the vandal has caused nearly \$400 in damage to the men's Math/Science restroom. The metal shelves below the mirrors were bent and used as a step for the vandal to tag his initials above the ceramic tile.

"This has been going on several semesters," said Lopez. "The new restrooms are already being subjected to vandal-

see *Vandals* page 6



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR
DAMAGED GOODS- Operations Manager, Charles Long, points to bathroom damage.

Safer Lighting Installed

■ Campus officials react to growing student and faculty lighting concerns.

By TIFFANY FARMAKIS
DESIGN EDITOR

In response to an ongoing student and faculty unease about the exterior lighting on campus, Valley College has embarked upon a new lighting project to replace 104 light poles and erect four new light poles which will be placed north of the Arts building and west of the Administration building.

"The lighting on campus could be a lot better," said business management major, P. Perera. "There are areas on campus that get really dark and students enrolled in a night class are entitled to feel safe."

Campus officials agree with students' concerns after having received complaints from students and faculty about the

see *Lighting* page 6



CYNTHIA PERRY / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

HOME SAFE - Plant Facilities Supervisor Al Amarawansa is thankful to be back home after a narrow escape from the tsunami danger that devastated Indonesia.

Valley Tsunami Survivor

■ Valley faculty member has restoration plans for his native country of Sri Lanka.

By LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A Valley College faculty member survived the tsunami and is now rallying support and organizing relief efforts to help his native country of Sri Lanka.

Last December, Al Amarawansa of Plant Facilities, was visiting friends and family on the

island of Sri Lanka with his son as they frequently do for the holidays. Normally, at that point in the trip, Amarawansa would travel the southern coast, but this time his son, 16-year-old Ravi, decided he wanted to stay in the midlands. On Dec. 26, when the wave approached the shores of the island, the father and son were safely stationed

in the midland state of Kurunegala.

Amarawansa, or Al Amaray as he's known on campus, lost many friends in the disaster but believes he and his son were spared for a reason.

"There must be a natural reason we didn't go [to the coast]. We're lucky to be

see *Tsunami* page 6

Valley Prop A Projects Stalled

■ Budget concerns temporarily de-rail Valley's restoration plan.

By LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College's re-vitalization project has hit a roadblock. With funds running dry, downsizes are being made in the planning stage and DMJM, the construction team behind the project, won't move forward until the college is back on budget.

"We trimmed and clipped, trimmed and clipped and finally we downsized," said Valley President Tyree Wieder at a town hall meeting last Tuesday. "We had to look at what we could downsize and we had to prioritize."

The restoration project is part of a broader, district-wide construction project funded by Proposition A, passed April 2001, and Proposition AA, passed May 2003, but those funds won't be enough to complete all of Valley's projects, according to Wieder.

The Facilities Master Plan Committee reached a consensus to put the Media Arts building on the chopping block - its fate yet to be determined.

"When it comes down to it, the Media Arts building affects less students and it stands alone; it has no domino effect," Wieder said.

Current students may not be affected, but it will result in a different kind of domino effect.

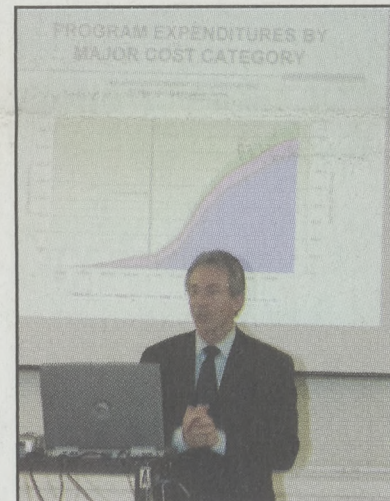
"[Removing the Media Arts Building] doesn't impact many students, but it will affect prospective students," said Rebecca Davis, AMAC co-president. However, this may not be goodbye for the Media Arts build-

ing. According to Wieder, backshelving the building is just a safety-net measure.

"Out of all our projects we had to find \$20 million to set aside, so we had to figure out where that resource was."

If the money isn't used, the building will be built on schedule.

"Everyone is disappointed that there's not a lot of big yellow equipment everywhere right now," said Larry Eisenberg Executive Director of facilities planning and development with the Los Angeles Community College district. "The easiest part of construction is when the trucks show up, the hardest part is



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR
THE BUCK STOPS HERE- DMJM/JGM Program Director Frederick Gans explains reconstruction costs.

everything leading up to that."

The FMP team ciphered through the list of campus proj-

see *Bond* page 6

Governor Schwarzenegger's Budget Falls Short Again

■ Although education funding is receiving the largest spending increase in this year's proposed budget, many argue it is still not

By TIFFANY FARMAKIS
DESIGN EDITOR

After an onslaught of funding cuts to higher education, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2005-2006 budget proposal advocates an increase in state funding of \$380 million to the impoverished institutions.

State financing for UC, CSU and community colleges will increase between 5 and 5.5 percent over the next year.

"This budget is not everything that I want but the fact is, it's a budget forced on us by a broken system," the governor said in a press release. "As I said in my State of the State, last year we stopped the bleeding. This year, we must heal the patient."

Schwarzenegger inherited an unprecedented fiscal crisis when he took office. According to state officials, this year's budget is another installment in the Governor's plan to restore California's economic health.

Education funding is receiving the largest spending increase in the budget.

"K-14 education funding will increase by \$2.9 billion. Out of that is \$2.4 billion for Prop. 98 alone," Schwarzenegger said at the press conference announcing his budget. "K-12 per-pupil spending will grow by \$362. Higher education spending will increase by more than \$380 million."

Prop. 98, a 1988 ballot initiative, designates 40 percent of all general fund money to schools.

Officials say the fund increase means more room for would-be college students including 5,000 additional full-time at UC, 8,000 at CSU and 34,000 community college students.

Hanna Skandera, under-secretary of education for Gov. Schwarzenegger, said the administration has made funding to community colleges an extra priority. Community college students have been hit the hardest with the double-digit fee increase and according to Skandera, the governor has included an extra \$20 million in this year's budget to assist

high school graduates headed for community college.

"I think more students will be able to have an education

now that there's more funding available to community colleges," said Valley College student Monique Rendon. "I have

a grant that's helped me a lot, especially since the fees are so high now."

According to Robert Turnage,

First Class Rockin' Candyman

■ Vending Rep. Steve Oswald is more than just another star behind snacks.

By SUSAN MALTBY
NEWS EDITOR

Whether you've got the munchies during math class or you're Jones-ing for some junk food after geography, Steve Oswald is the man who makes sure Valley College student's daily snack food cravings are met. But that's not the only reason that Steve rocks. He also headlines at local clubs as lead guitarist/vocalist for the rock and roll band "Twist Off."

"I stock all of the vending machines except for the Coke," said Oswald. "There's enough work for me just stocking and maintaining everything here at



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

TASTE THE RAINBOW - Steve Oswald brings color to campus each day.

Valley," said Oswald. "It keeps me pretty busy."

The 48-year-old Orange County resident has become

a popular and familiar face on campus to both staff and stu-

see *Oswald* page 6

THIS WEEK IN NEWS:

GOVERNMENT:

Richard Perle served as the bull's-eye of a protestor's shoe at a Portland debate with new DNC chairman Howard Dean. Perle is a former adviser partly responsible for designing the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

HEALTH:

The FDA is narrowly convinced that Cox-2 inhibitors should still be available as long as patients know the medication could increase their chances of developing "heart trouble."

CONSUMERS:

New Jersey Attorney General Peter Harvey is sticking up for consumers. Blockbusters claim of "No More Late Fees" must of been a typo. It seems what they meant to say was "No More Late Fees For a Week, After That You Owe Us \$1.25, After That You're Paying Retail." Harvey has filed a lawsuit against the video rental chain, adding to the company's troubles as they lost the battle to take over Hollywood Entertainment Corp., losing to a smaller competitor.

CONVICTION:

Paul Shanley's highly publicized conviction has spun the spotlight back onto the Catholic church. More than 1,000 new cases have been filed against clergymen in the past year. Many dioceses face bankruptcy in the wake of accusations against over 4,000 clerics. Sex abuse settlements had cost the church about \$573 million by 2002.

CAMPUS EYE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH:
Wednesday, Feb. 23, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Monarch Square.

LAVC INFANT-TODDLER TEACHER INSTITUTE CELEBRATION:
Friday, Feb. 25, 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the grassy area between Engineering, Math/Science and Planetarium.

FINANCIAL AID:
Last day to file your FAFSA is Wednesday, March 2.

THINK TRANSFER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CAREER TRANSFER CENTER AT (818) 947-2646

CAREER PLANNING WORKSHOP:
Thursday, Feb. 24, 1 p.m. at Administration 126.

TRANSFER FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP:
Monday, Feb. 28, 1 p.m. at Administration 126.

JOB SHADOW ORIENTATION:
Monday, Feb. 28, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

CAREER/ TRANSFER CENTER NOVEMBER REPRESENTATIVE VISITS:

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES:
UNIVERSITY OF WEST LOS ANGELES:
Wednesday, Feb. 23, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Administration 126.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES:

CSUN:
Monday, Feb. 28, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Tuesday, March 1, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Administration 126.

ASU Challenges Status Quo

■ Valley's student government has big plans for the spring semester.

By LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College's Associated Student Union is reshaping its standard from the inside out. ASU, Valley's student government, is a key resource on campus but there's always room for improvement, according to ASU Vice President Jessie Salas.

"ASU is going to go above and beyond to serve the campus," Salas said.

ASU President Levon Bagramian, entering his second semester as president, says he learned from his first semester in office, such as what the student body wants.

"We will be on the map this semester," said Bagramian. "We want to tackle domestic issues but not isolate outside issues."

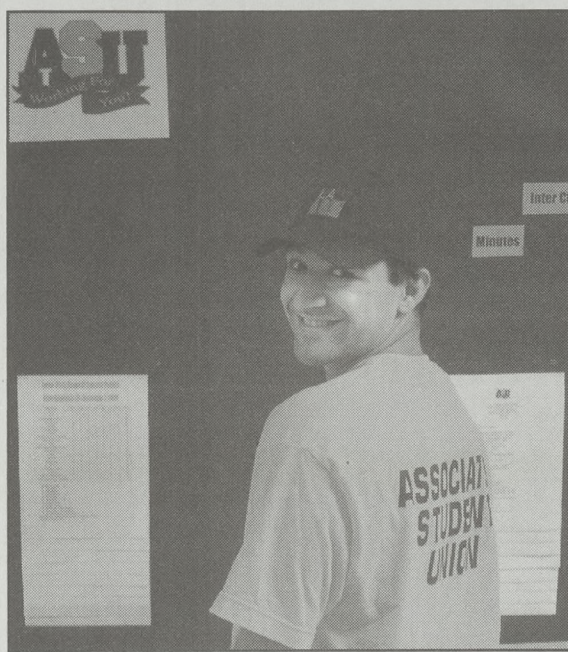
The ASU in response to the high cost of textbooks is establishing a book-exchange program that would allow students to trade and sell books one-on-one without administrative interference.

Two of Bagramian's main goals for the semester include reducing the number of students on academic probation while increasing the college's transfer rate.

"Valley has prominent transfer rates," said ASU Vice President Jessie Salas. "But our goal is to have at least 75 percent of the students who plan to transfer, transfer."

The ASU's spring agenda is filled, including a trip to Washington DC to attend the American Association of Community Colleges annual event to participate in workshops and meet legislators.

There's still one position open for the AACC event. Interested students may apply for the trip through the ASU office.



DANIEL VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR
MAN IN CHARGE: ASU president Levon Bagramian shows off his school pride outside the ASU office.

"We're here as a service to the students," said Salas. "But we need the students to give us input."

The ASU wants students to become ASU members. Interested students can apply in CC102 for the position of commissioner of ethnic and cultural affairs.

Bagramian and Salas encourage students to pay the optional \$7 ASU fee in the business office. The ASU funds the Lion's Den and partially funds the writing center.

"We can't give back until we receive funds," Salas said. "It's because of those fees that we were able to fund the Lion's Den."

"There's power in numbers," said Salas. "We want bigger and better club days."

According to Salas, last semester there were 20 registered clubs on campus. "Once you open yourself up to more than the norm - going to class and going home - you make the most of your community college experience."

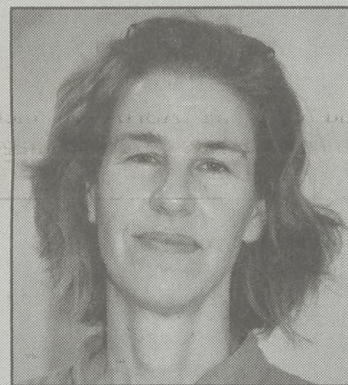
Meet the Faculty

TEXT BY
SOLANGEL CAMPOS
PHOTOS BY
LINDOMAR BRANDAO

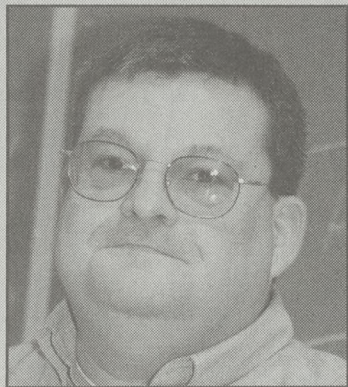
■ As the spring semester begins, it's time to welcome Valley College's newer part-time faculty members.



Tracy Bachman, of the English department, earned her AA at Valley College and her BA/MA from CSUN. Bachman received the President Associated Student Award 2004.



Joan Hackling, of the Earth Science department, earned her PhD from UCLA. She teaches two Geography classes.



Jeffrey Dievendorf, of the Psychology department, earned his PhD in Psychology from Pepperdine University. He is teaching Psychology and Philosophy 1.

CAMPUS CRIME

Taking Tunes: Stereo Stolen in Vehicle Burglary

By SUSAN MALTBY
NEWS EDITOR

Vehicle Burglary

A thief made off with an in-dash Sony CD/MP3 car stereo on Feb. 11, sometime between 8:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. The burglar smashed in the front passenger side window of a 2003 Honda Civic while it was parked in Lot G. The passenger side door handle was also damaged as the burglar attempted to pry open the door. Total damage is estimated at \$400. Police have no suspects.

Hit and Run

A 2005 Toyota was side-swiped in a hit-and-run collision on Feb. 8 between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. The front right side fender, door, rim and mirror of the Toyota were damaged.

Police have no vehicle or suspect description.

Textbook Theft

Six new textbooks valued at \$177 were taken from the women's restroom in the engineering building on Feb. 7. The victim inadvertently left her textbooks in the restroom for a few minutes. When she returned to retrieve them they were gone. She found the receipt for the new books which she had left in one of the textbooks in the trash outside the restroom.

The Valley College Sheriff's Department asks that anyone with information regarding any of these incidents please call the department at (818) 947-2911.

Provocative Speaker Series

Political Insider Indicts Presidency

■ John W. Dean, former counsel to President Nixon, shares his insight into the Bush Administration.

By LAGINA PHILLIPS AND
SUSAN MALTBY
EDITORS

Dubbed a "contemporary American hero" by Marlene Share, co-founder of Valley Cities Jewish Community Center, John Dean presented his views on the Watergate era and current political issues Feb. 15 at the center's Provocative Speaker Series.

As former counsel to President Richard Nixon during the Watergate scandal, 66-year-old Dean opened his comments at the VCJCC by saying that the 175-member audience would have no trouble hearing his voice because "whenever I went into the oval office, I must have been sitting on top of the microphone because mine is the loudest voice on the tapes."

Dean was sentenced to prison for four months - which he served in a witness protection program - after being found guilty of obstruction of justice for his role in the scandal.

Dean, an Ohio native, spoke in-depth about the importance of anonymity of sources in journalism and its relevance in the recent decision handed down by a three-judge panel that may force the journalists who revealed the identity of a CIA agent to serve time in prison for not disclosing their sources.

Referring to the most famous source of all, Dean cited the important role "Deep Throat" played in Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's breaking of the Watergate scandal.

Dean also addressed issues raised in his best-selling book, "Worse than Watergate: The Secret Presidency of George W. Bush," such as the artful manner in which the Bush Administration manipulates the press and the connection Dean sees between the current administration and the Nixon era.

"Both [Nixon and Bush] don't seem terribly comfortable in office," Dean said, also highlighting the men's likeness in using secrecy to run their administrations.

"From a historical perspective, it's refreshing to hear someone discuss issues such as honesty," said Ford Roosevelt, grand-

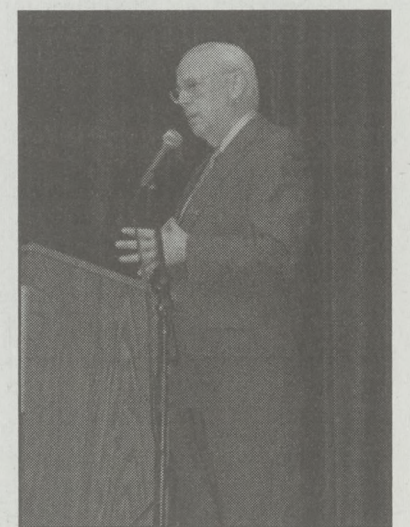


PHOTO COURTESY OF FORD ROOSEVELT
JOHN W. DEAN - Former counsel to President Nixon spoke at the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center on Feb. 15.

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Tutors of the Tutors

■ Campus resource under-recognized by students.

By LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College's Learning Center has much to offer students but many are unaware of what they're missing.

"Tutors from the other labs come here to get tutored," said Phyllis Yasuda, director of the learning center. "We do the tutoring that the major labs don't take care of."

The center, located north of the administration building, boasts tutors from UCLA and CSUN, as well as tutors who are working on master degrees and PhDs in their fields of study.

According to Yasuda, the center is grateful to have such great support from the administration. "Mission doesn't even have a budget for tutoring programs, so Valley students should feel lucky."

Offering one-hour, one-on-one tutoring sessions in multiple subjects, including chemistry, physics and math up to calculus, the center prides itself in covering areas the other labs on campus neglect.

"We create an environment different from the math lab," Yasuda said. "It's quiet here. Some people - like DSPS students - can't concentrate unless it's quiet."

The center is equipped to provide many services, with adjustable wheel-chair friendly desks and audio stations for ESL students. It also has an extensive media library, with audio, visual and printed materials available for students to check out.

The center is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call the Learning Center at 818-947-2744.

OPINION

3

A Promise Is A Promise Arnie

■ Governor's budget promises to help schools or will it?

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY
STAFF WRITER

Last year we stopped the bleeding, this year we must begin to heal the patient, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger told the Legislature as he presented his 2005-2006 state budget proposal. Doesn't he know that the state of California can't afford the doctor bills?

At first glance the pie chart reflects a fair slice for community colleges. Schwarzenegger's proposal includes approximately \$137 million for enrollment growth, \$196 million for cost-of-living adjustment and \$20 million for economic development. Looks good so far.

But look a little closer and you'll find that this pie is not so sweet. Schwarzenegger also proposes a shift in responsibility for added retirement funds to local school districts; meaning districts would have to pick up the \$1.1 billion tab for pension costs.

Schwarzenegger calls it an honest budget and a budget the state needs, but who's being honest here? Can we really trust him to keep his word?

First, he agreed to not tamper with Proposition 98, the state initiative passed by voters in 1988 that guarantees schools and community colleges more than 40 percent of any new state revenues. Then, last year he made a deal that the schools would give up \$2 billion in

tax revenues guaranteed under Prop. 98 with the promise that the funds would be restored. A deal that helped him get through year one in office and a promise that was not kept.

He says he won't spend more than what the state already has in the budget, helping to "close the gap and keep spending on track with revenues." He claims this will break Sacramento's bad habit of credit card financing, but the truth is his new budget relies on borrowing \$4 billion to repay money from past borrowing.

Sounds like Republican double-speak to me. If Schwarzenegger has his way, a constitutional amendment will be added to the ballot that could weaken Prop. 98. So much for tamper-proofing the money that our schools have been guaranteed.

As students we all have a voice, a big loud voice. You can call or e-mail the governor's office, let him know what you think at www.governor.ca.gov.

The best thing that students can do is to be informed, speak up and empower ourselves with knowledge.

Get involved with the student government right here on campus by joining Valley's Associated Student Union. Go to the ASU meetings. Get ready for the March in March Rally in Sacramento on March 15.

Hey, isn't that where the governor's office is?

Let's Rip 'N' Roll for Condom Day

■ American Public Health Association declares condoms "the reason for the season."

BY SUSAN MALTBY
NEWS EDITOR

Is that a Susan B. Anthony dollar in your pocket or are you just following the Boy Scout's motto: be prepared? Either way, you can get your party started because February is the month to celebrate coins and condoms. Not to mention that it's also Black History month. (Insert Chris Rock joke here.)

Feb. 15 is Susan B. Anthony Day. Her head's on a silver dollar. Other than that, who the heck is she, anyway?

More familiar to most college students are names like Trojan™, Durex™ and Lifestyles™. Those are names we recognize. Names we trust. And now, names we can celebrate. According to the American Social Health Association, Feb. 14-21 is National Condom Week.

It's time to remember that condoms help reduce the spread of disease and lower the risk of unplanned pregnancy. To put it bluntly: Herpes is for life, not just for Christmas. Use condoms to help ensure that your genitals don't write checks that your butt can't cash.

After two decades of safe sex promotion, more than 65 million Americans over age 12 have an incurable sexually transmitted disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Promoting safe sex during February makes sense.

"Valentine's Day is nationally recognized as a time for love," said Linda Alexander, President and CEO for ASHA on their official website. "We encourage

people to talk openly and honestly with their sexual partners about the sensitive subject of condoms as a way to reduce the risk sexually transmitted diseases."

Last year, more than 60 health and human service organizations joined together to oppose comments from Congress and the media that disparage condoms.

"Promoting fear-based messages that question condom effectiveness and go so far as to suggest that condom use is unsafe jeopardize the health of millions of Americans," stated the coalition in a letter to Congress.

In its letter the coalition also said: "the surest way to eliminate the risk for sexually transmitted diseases is to refrain from any

sexual contact with another individual. However, for individuals who choose to be sexually active — a group that includes the vast majority of Americans — condoms remain an extremely important tool in the drive to reduce sexually transmitted infections."

Heh, heh, they said 'tool' and 'drive.'

Despite the sophomoric jokes, condom use is a serious issue.

An estimated 15.3 million new cases of STD's are diagnosed every year in this country, according to statistics from the CDC. Also, two-thirds of all STDs occur in people 25 years or younger.

Nearly one in four

Americans have genital herpes, yet at least 80 percent of those are unaware they have it, according to ASHA.

The message is as clear as K-Y™. Condoms are important all the time. Well, maybe not all the time, but definitely when you're having intercourse.

For many people, the sobering STD statistics are enough incentive to choose abstinence and declare that instead of a day of love, Valentine's is simply National Chocolate Day.

If you decide to celebrate the season with sex, be sure to surprise your special someone with the perfect accessory: a black, chocolate-flavored Susan B. Anthony condom.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

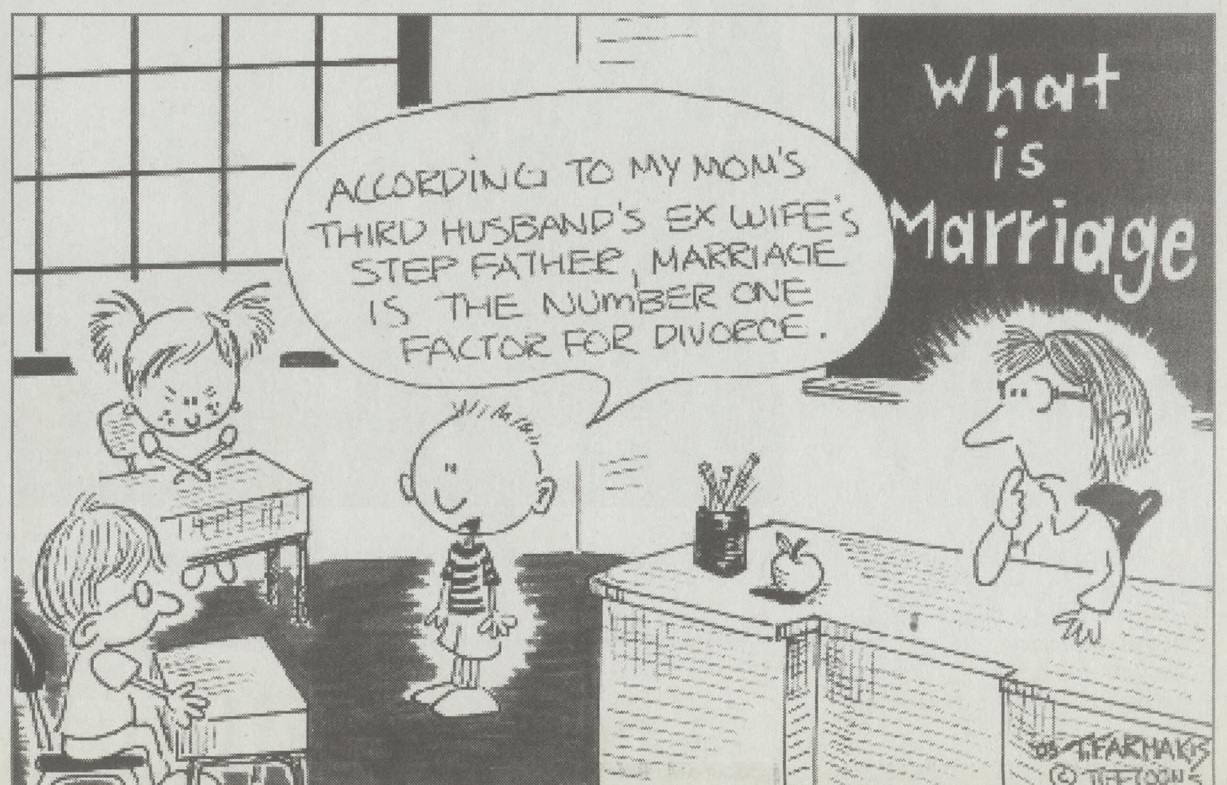


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARKAKIS / VALLEY STAR

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: IS MARRIAGE STILL A SOLID CHOICE?

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at www.lavalleystar.com

Marriage Makes A Person's Life Complete

■ Traditional values support legal arrangement.

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
SPORTS EDITOR

I believe that most people would like to have a partner in their life; I am no different. So, if you have the partner, why not have someone that would love you all your life. You can enjoy each other's company and the benefits that come with a good marriage.

I plan to get married when I graduate from college and have a nice job that will help me support a family. Many ask me why I want to wait until I graduate from college. It is simple; by the time I graduate, I will be wiser and have job stability.

A study done by Centers for Disease Control reported that the older the bride, the longer the marriage will last.

Believe it or not, marriage has more than 1,400 benefits.

According to Family Research Council, married people have better emotional and physical health and live longer than do unmarried people.

"Married people have greater income than single adults and the longer they stay married, the more wealth they accumulate."

The study also found that married women are safer than unmarried women and married couples enjoy greater sexual satisfaction than do the unmarried people.

Despite the fact there is so much bad media about marriage, an average of 6,000 individuals get married everyday, according to a study by CDC.

If you are single but are thinking about having kids you may want to think twice.

Children living with married

parents are much safer than children with single parents, because they are less likely to be abused or neglected, according to the CDC report.

Children with married parents do better academically and fare better economically, according to Family Research Council.

Valentine's Day just passed and, most likely, millions of couples became engaged. Unfortunately, statistics show that approximately 50 percent of marriages in the United States end in divorce within first 15 years of marriage.

I am not here to tell you that marriage is romantic and enjoyable everyday, nor do I expect my own to be that way. But that wouldn't stop me. Because I realize that a person doesn't become perfect just by getting married. I know life can't be that simple.

A woman who has been married for 37 years said, "My husband and I have decided that respect is the mainstay of our long marriage. We realize fully that either one of us could stray — we are only human. But if we approach each other with respect, on every subject, we both win."

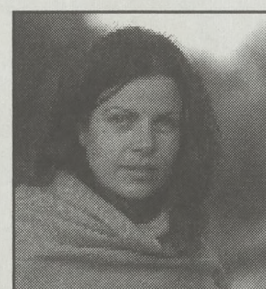
Before you get married it wouldn't be a bad idea to go to couples counseling and agree on some basic issues that will be part of the big picture. It's easy to just focus on the moment in front of you.

Life is not simple and a simple life isn't worth living. Marriage would be much better if we focused on its positives instead of its negatives.

Campus View

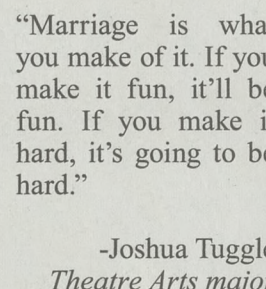
What do you think about marriage?

PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA PERRY



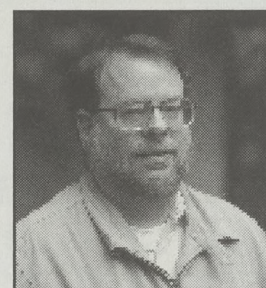
"I think it's great when you're with the right person."

-Lorenza Cooperman
Child Development major



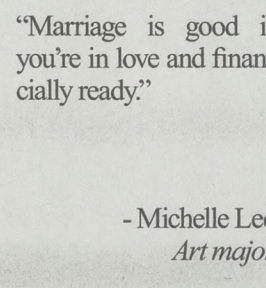
"Marriage is what you make of it. If you make it fun, it'll be fun. If you make it hard, it's going to be hard."

-Joshua Tuggle
Theatre Arts major



"Commitment is good if you're raising children. But it doesn't have to be a legal marriage, just an arrangement of commitment."

-David Crandall
Library Technician



"Marriage is good if you're in love and financially ready."

-Michelle Lee
Art major

Why Buy the Cow When the Milk Is Free?

■ 'Til death do us part...Marriage doesn't always lead to a happy ending.

BY TIFFANY FARKAKIS
DESIGN EDITOR

Leave 'happily ever after' to the fairy tales. Divorce statistics are rising and the stigma on marriage is it doesn't seem to work.

So why get married? Happy couples with rose-colored lenses look forward to promises like a diamond from the De Beers cartel, a starter house and an SUV. The usual middle-class dreams and drudgery. But for 50 percent of married couples, there's another consumer item on the long-term horizon: Le Divorce.

In a report from the National Center for Health Statistics, 43 percent of first marriages end in separation or divorce within 15 years. According to the U. S. Census Bureau, the divorce has quadrupled from 4.3 million in 1970 to 18.3 million in 1996. Research also shows that 40 to 50 percent of new marriages end in divorce. Despite these statistics, thousands of idealists still seek wedded bliss.

Again, I'm left to ponder, why? Marriage, divorce and re-marriage. Unfortunately it's becoming an all-too-common theme. The multi-billion dollar enterprise that's resulted from it has sent many couples to the poor house, leaving power-driven lawyers thirsty for more.

According to maritalstatus.com, a web site geared toward divorce and remarriage, divorce is a \$28 billion-a-year industry with the average cost of legal fees amounting to between \$15,000 to \$30,000. Some of these include court fees, but most of the money goes to litigation attorneys, who will buy their own big houses, German cars and, of course, throw lavish divorces of their own.

Divorce is big business for attorneys nationwide.

So why do people put themselves and their families through heartache and financial ruin?

It's crazy notions of love. People are driven nuts with the promise of an everlasting, perfect love. But human beings are flawed. People fail to see the array of quirks in their other half. Imperfections are magnified after marriage.

Wide-eyed people, brainwashed and believing think a perfect love and trust can exist once you're with the right person. The harsh reality is that those are merely ideals.

Marriage is hard work. Once the luster of the initial romance is gone, all that's left are two vulnerable people. It's up to them to keep their relationship alive or foolishly lose it in the fruitless pursuit of the raw romance.

Perfection is fleeting, and people must understand and accept the transitory nature of this concept. Not doing so leads to the exact opposite of what pure love and trust embody, thus trouble begins. When a couple can no longer hold onto their initial state of puppy-love, and no other solution presents itself, the pair crumbles and the divorce lawyer is called. The vicious cycle then repeats itself.

Take my advice, if you're lonely, instead of jumping on the bandwagon and getting hitched, avoid the enticing bait of marriage and get a dog. Or wait and make sure the person you want to walk down the aisle with will be the same person you'll want sitting next to you on the front porch of your retirement home.

WEDNESDAY
TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, Feb. 23

Film Night

6 p.m.
The Haha Cafe, North Hollywood
Free, \$5 donation encouraged
Award winning student films of 2004

3 Doors Down

8 p.m.
The Wiltern, Los Angeles
\$35-\$42.50

Thursday, Feb. 24

Diminished

7 p.m.
The Whiskey, Hollywood
\$10

Beck

8 p.m.
Henry Fonda, Los Angeles
\$23

Sputnik Monroe

8:30 p.m.
The Key Club, Los Angeles
\$5

Friday, Feb. 25

Hot Hot Heat

8 p.m.
The Roxy, Hollywood
\$15

Kenny Wayne Shepherd

8 p.m.
House of Blues Sunset, Hollywood
\$27.50

Man of the House

Film Release
Tommy Lee Jones, Christina Milian
Dir: Stephen Herek
Action/Comedy

Diary of a Mad Black Woman

Film Release
Kimberly Elise, Steve Harris
Dir: Darren Grant
Drama/Comedy

Cursed

Film Release
Christina Ricci, Joshua Jackson
Dir: Wes Craven
Horror/Thriller

Saturday, Feb. 26

Duran Duran

8 p.m.
STAPLES Center, Los Angeles
\$35-\$75

Sunday, Feb. 27

H.I.M. (His Infernal Majesty)

8 p.m.
The Avalon, Hollywood
\$25

Monday, Feb. 28

Metal Skool

9 p.m.
The Roxy, Hollywood
\$12.50

Tuesday, Mar. 1

Aaron Carter

7 p.m.
House of Blues Sunset, Hollywood
\$30

The Gingerdead Man

Film Release
Alexia Aleman, Newell Alexander
Dir: Charles Band
Comedy/Horror

Jennifer Lopez

Album Release
"Rebirth"
Sony

Elvis Costello/The Imposters

Album Release
"Delivery Man"
Lost Highway

Jack Johnson

Album Release
"Between Dreams"
Universal

The Mars Volta

Album Release
"Frances the Mute"
Universal

And the Oscar Nominees Are...

■ **OSCAR CONTEST:** Here's your chance to pick the winners in every category. The entrant with the most correct picks will win the DVD of a previous Best Picture winner. For details visit our online edition at www.lavalleystar.com and submit your

picks via e-mail or drop a hard copy at the newsroom (BJ 114). Hard copy picks must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, 25. Good luck!

By CHELSEA BANKS
Valley Life Editor

It's that time of the year again. The 77th Annual Academy Awards – Hollywood's most important awards ceremony – is back with a vengeance. Many of the nominees this time around are deserving of the coveted statuettes, making this year's race that much fiercer.

While "Sideways" and "Finding Neverland" have had much hype and "The Aviator" received its academy nod based mostly on its big names (Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio), the real showdown is between "Ray" and "Million Dollar Baby."

"Ray" felt more like watching clips filmed during Ray Charles' life rather than an interpretation by an actor, making you experience each somber moment and leaving you with a joyous feeling.

"Million Dollar Baby" was excellent in a completely different way. Instead of sending you home dancing to a tune-filled happy ending, "Million Dollar Baby" sweeps you up on a wave of emotion.

Both are captivating films

full of award-worthy performances, but because of their diversity, it's hard to decide which film will snatch the top prize.

Of course, award for best picture is not the only toss-up. Best director is also a tough call.

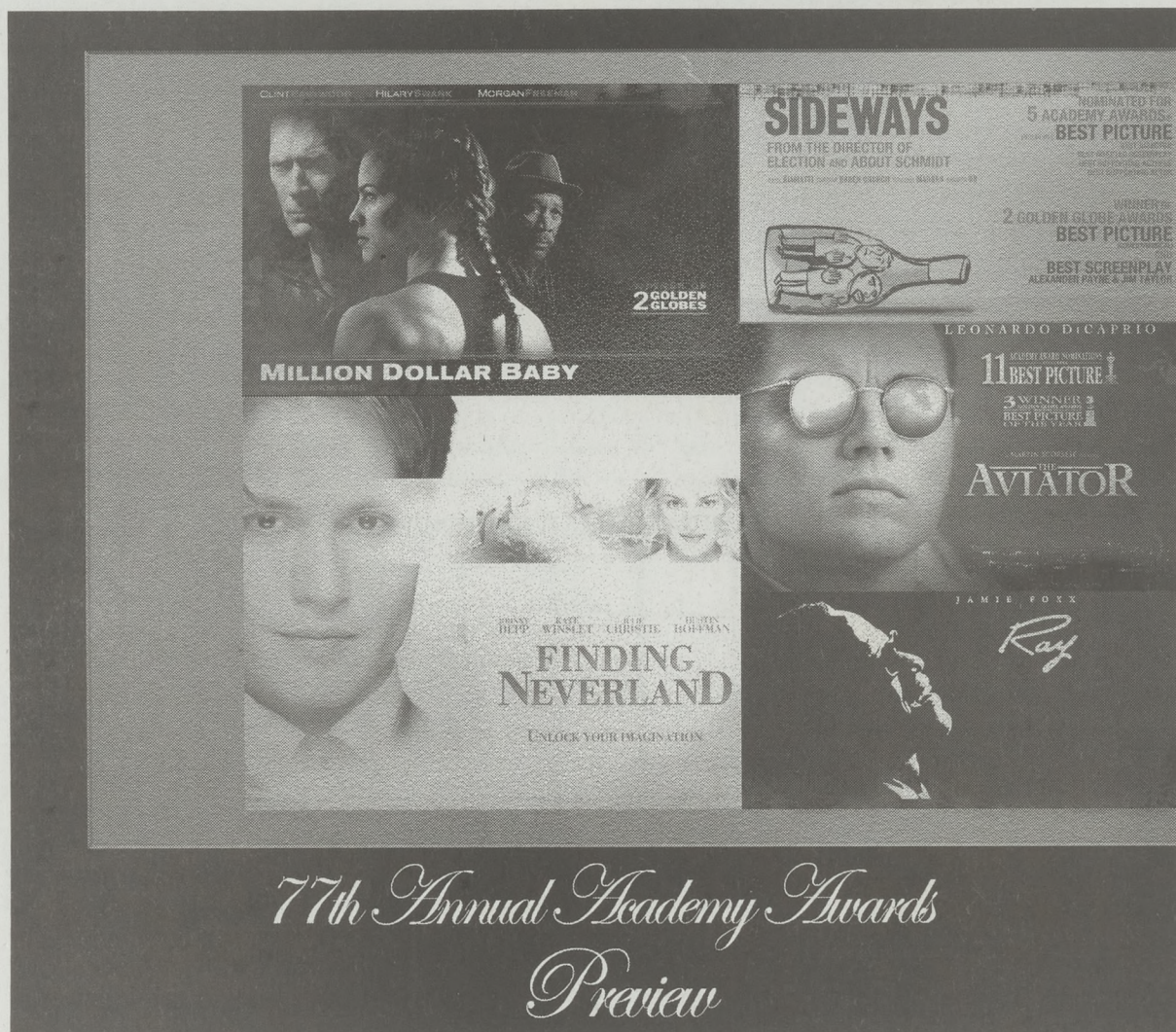
"The Aviator" is up for the directorial statue, along with 10 other nominations, and while this is Scorsese's seventh nomination, it would be his first time receiving an Oscar.

However, Clint Eastwood with his nomination as best director for "Million Dollar Baby" is a formidable contender. Eastwood, who won best director for "Unforgiven" in 1993, is also nominated for best actor for the film.

The double nominations do not guarantee Eastwood an award, though. Eastwood may get a run for his money against Jamie Foxx with his work this year in "Ray."

Foxx is another nominee with two chances to win, also nominated for his supporting role in "Collateral."

With the wide range of talent competing for the prestigious Oscar, the awards could actually be entertaining this year.



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

COMING TO A TELEVISION NEAR YOU - The 77th Annual Academy Awards will air Sunday, Feb. 27 at 5 p.m.

Artivist Film Festival
Helps Tsunami Victims

■ **There was a big turn out for the film festival and fundraiser that combined artistry and activism through kind-hearted, familiar faces of Hollywood.**

By WILLIAM HINES
Staff Writer

To raise money for the upcoming Second Annual Artivist Film Festival on April 24th, with 10 percent of the night's proceeds going toward tsunami relief efforts, socially conscious celebrities gathered Thursday night to enjoy entertainment at the Sunset Room in Hollywood.

Among those who turned up for the festivities were James Cromwell and Ann Cusack.

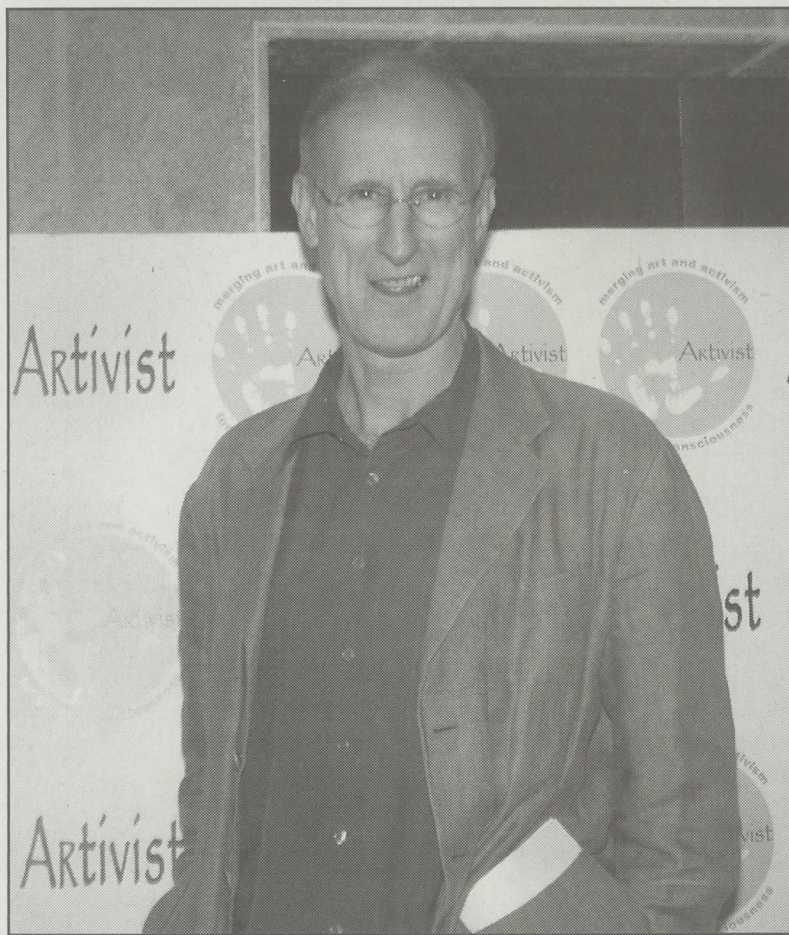
Cromwell, who supports the banning of gestation cages for female animals and opposes factory farming, will be honored for his work with Farm Sanctuary at the festival.

"I got involved with Artivist when they approached me [regarding the award]," said Cromwell, who you might remember as farmer Arthur Hogget in the 90's talking-pig movie "Babe," and more recently for his role in HBO's "Six Feet Under."

The night also included musical performances by Damon Elliot, Shaheen Sheik, and the Fall Water Project, a group that highlighted the evening with a combination of live music and visual art by performing their eclectic-alternative style with an artist doing water-color designs on a light board in the background, was truly a sight to see.

Lili Haydn, an amazing violinist who has been called "Jimi Hendrix on the violin" by the funk-master, George Clinton, was also there to entertain.

Artivist, the first inter-



DANIEL VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

JOYOUS DAY - James Cromwell made the official on-stage announcement that Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn has declared Wednesday, April 20, 2005 as "Artivist Day."

national activist film festival, addresses children's advocacy, animal rights and environmental preservation through the film, art and music contributions of international artists.

In its first year the festival brought 80 films to 4,000 people in 14 countries, catching the eyes of many celebrities and activists. The turn out for the 2005 festival is expected to be even more overwhelming and if Thursday night was any indicator, overwhelming is an understatement.

Grading Tables Have
Been Turned

■ **Web site has teachers working for good grades.**

By SOLANGEL CAMPOS
Staff Writer

There are professors you want to get back at for giving you a bad grade. There are professors who changed your life and you would like to encourage others to choose. Rate My Professors.com gives students that opportunity.

"I think that students should be able to rate teachers. I rate the waiters at Denny's. Why not my professor?" said Valley College student Tyrone Fuller.

The web site, online since 1999, has the largest listing of college professor ratings, boasting a total of 3,041,911 during the writing of this article, and adding every day. The web site offers a public review of university professors from across the United States and Canada. There are more than 4,000 schools and more than 500,000 professors being rated. Students can go into the web site and anonymously grade their professors under four categories: easiness, helpfulness, clarity and rater interest.

One of the professors

from Valley who has a rating on the site is Ecrunent Aksoy, an economics teacher. Aksoy supports the web site, but also suggests that students give an explanation of why they gave a certain grade to a professor.

One student rating Aksoy said he was "a great teacher. Awesome personality. His tests are not hard as long as you read the book. They are straight from the books."

Aksoy is pleased with the rating. It makes him feel good that students enjoy his classes. Aksoy said, "Students are good judges of instructors. The web site can be useful to other students."

"This can be both a good and bad thing," said Valley student Rubin Seravin about the site. "Many students might try to get back at a teacher for giving a bad grade. The good thing about the web site is that students can help each other with the suggestion of a good teacher."

If a student wants to rate one of their professors, or view a professor's rating, they can go to www.ratemyprofessors.com.

FIGHT LIKE A SQUIRREL

TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR



NEWS

5

'Budget'

continued from page 2

community college system is huge. An estimated 2.5 million people will enroll in community colleges this year. Although Schwarzenegger's \$5.7 billion budget would spend about 6 percent less per student than a few years ago, it also holds fees at \$26 per credit. "Our students needed a break," Turnage said.

Opponents to the governor's proposal argue that although higher education is getting a break, other educational institutions would face another uphill budget fight.

The proposal would cut \$2.3 billion from the education spending formula required by Proposition 98. Last year, school administrators agreed to forgo an expected \$2 billion in the 2004-05 budget guaranteed by Prop. 98. A promise from the governor indicated that the money would be repaid and the suspension would not

vice chancellor for fiscal policy, the California

happen again. Education leaders and legislators who agreed to the previous year's deal are angry. "He's breaking his promise, breaking his word," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell. "How does that look to the students of this state?"

Raul Castillo, executive director of the Patrons Association at Valley said it's difficult to find other sources to replenish the funds that were taken away from community colleges over the last few years.

"My job now is tougher because we [the Patrons Association] need to try and find alternative sources like fund-raising to close the gap between what the state is able to provide and what Valley College's needs are," Castillo said.

Many students agree. "As an international student, I don't feel community colleges get enough money," said Valley student Kana Fuji. "For me, community colleges are a good deal and they deserve to get more funding."

'Bond'

continued from page 2

ects and broke it into four categories, based on priority.

The first category being top priority with the Central Plant and Allied Health and Science Center, which is scheduled to receive \$14 million from the state. Category two consists of the Central plant, maintenance and operations. The third encompasses classroom and restroom renovations, and the last category, of low-priority projects, houses the library, student services and Media Arts building.

According to Wieder, everyone has to make sacrifices to get the project completed.

"We had to ask 'What is realistic? What is possible?'" Eisenberg said.

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'Oswald'*continued from page 1*

dents. For the past six years, the dedicated service representative for First Class Vending Co. has made his daily rounds to the 24 candy, coffee and drink machines throughout campus.

"I've got a few nicknames around here including 'food dude' and 'waterboy,'" said Oswald with a chuckle. "Valley's one of the best colleges I've worked at. The people are really nice and the campus is very well-kept."

Matthew Marsh, president of First Class, praises the work of Valley's dedicated 'candyman'. "He's doing a great job," said Marsh. "He's one of our top employees. Never misses a day of work."

Bryan Bietsch, heating ventilation and air conditioning technician, has worked on campus for the past 15 years and recalls meeting Oswald on his very first day here. "I helped him get the power set up for his machines, exhaust fans and stuff like that," said Bietsch. They're now long-time friends. "I see him almost

every day. He's certainly an asset to the college," said Bietsch.

He enjoys his day job, but Oswald admits it's not his first love. Once all the machines are locked, loaded and ready for snackin', he heads out for a night of rockin'.

An accomplished musician and guitar player for 35 years, Oswald heads the classic rock band, "Twist Off."

"It's about playing music and having fun," he said. "I've traveled all over the place and played in Utah, Arizona, Montana and Mexico. We cover everything from the 60s to today's top hits; from Steppenwolf to Green Day." The band plays at Boomer's Night Club in Long Beach on March 12, April 29 and May 21.

The steadfast service rep. admits his rockin' lifestyle can be rough at times. "I get up for work at 3:15 a.m. each day. If I play a show on Friday night that means I'm up for nearly 24 hours," explains the 6-foot-1-inch single father of two. "I walk around like a zombie the next day."

He's looking forward to seeing his

14-year-old son, Steven, and 12-year-old daughter, Claire, who will be coming to visit him this week from Arizona.

When he's not working, spending time with his kids or rocking out, Oswald maintains an active lifestyle. "I jog, swim and ride my bike a lot," he said. "I've got a dog, Max, and some Parakeets and Finches to keep me company. My daughter loves birds so I keep those more for her."

Besides his contributions to the campus and music scene, Oswald has also made appearances in movies. "In the 70s I did some acting. I did a scene in 'Eat My Dust' with Ron Howard," he explained. "It was pretty cool. We get into a bit of a scuffle and I'm like 'Take that, Opie!'"

His dedication continues to make Oswald a star. "He's a great, hard-working man," said Valley student Joseph Galang, nursing major. "Every day at 8 a.m. I see him there fixing and filling up the machines," said Galang. "He's always friendly and helpful for whatever you need. Steve rocks!"

Organization predicts more deaths from diseases such as Malaria.

"It's very difficult to say how long it will take to get the country back on its feet, but now our main effort is to restore life for those in need," Amarawansa said.

Amarawansa's son, Ravi, follows in his father's footsteps. Ravi, a sophomore, is also developing a fundraiser at Venice High School.

Amarawansa says he won't forget the destruction of the wave. He recalls the widowed young brides of fishermen walking the coast with young children and infants, viewing the aftermath. "They're babies with babies and they're all alone now. It was heartbreaking."

Amarawansa urges people to donate what they can to reliable organizations.

For more information on the Dharma Vijaya Temple, or for donation information, visit www.dharmavijaya.org.

'Vandals'*continued from page 1*

ism. This problem needs to be known." Lopez says the entire cost for upgrading the bathrooms was approximately \$725,000.

"I'm very disappointed that individuals don't respect college property," said Valley President Tyree Wieder.

According to Valley student, Michael McDonald, vandalism is a problem everywhere.

"Vandalism is just a territorial thing, people want to advertise who they are," he said. "I feel sad because I don't like how they mess up the mirrors because they won't be fixed for a while."

Damage to several other bathrooms

on campus has also been reported, particularly the cafeteria bathrooms.

"[The suspect] has hit several bathrooms over time," said Deputy Sheriff Randy Tunistra, head of campus security. "The more he continues coming back and repeating his acts, the more chance he has of getting caught."

According to Tunistra, vandalism and property damage is a serious crime. The suspect may face a jail sentence.

"This is very disappointing especially when we just completed these restrooms," said Lopez. "I think this problem should be brought up to the students maybe through ASU. If nothing changes our new facilities will suffer the same fate."

Anyone with information is urged to call the Sheriff's office at 818-947-2911.

'Lighting'*continued from page 1*

lack of outdoor lighting on campus.

"A few students and faculty members had some concerns and we acted on them," said Tom Jacobsmeyer, vice president of Administration at Valley College. "We put lights in the areas where students had the most concerns and that were a little dark."

In May 2002, 110 10-foot light poles were installed throughout the campus. Now showing signs of age, the plastic coating on the poles has begun to crack and rust through.

"The light poles we had installed a couple years ago have a coating that isn't working properly," said Jacobsmeyer. "We replaced all the steel poles with aluminum."

The new lights are part of the campus renovation plan. According to Jacobsmeyer, extensive re-lighting of the campus can't occur until more campus renovations are done.

"I think it's great that campus officials are putting in new lighting," said Valley student Adriana Ananian. "As an art major, I avoided taking classes at

night because that area was so dark and many classes run late. During the fall, it gets dark before classes let out. I hate having to walk to my car at night - it's a very frightful experience."

Work has already begun on the north end of the campus by the Music and Art buildings.

"Dr. Wieder got involved and discovered the darker areas on campus," said Lopez. "We're adding additional lighting to illuminate those darker areas."

Lopez also asks that students not walk through the areas where construction has begun.

Officials take students security seriously at the college.

"Everyone is concerned about having adequate lighting in the evenings for our students, faculty and staff," said Valley President Tyree Wieder. "We are constantly checking the current lighting grid to be sure that we don't have lights out."

"[The new lighting] will help students and faculty," said Jacobsmeyer. "More likely, this will help students taking night classes feel safer."

'Tsunami'*continued from page 1*

for society."

Amarawansa began relief efforts immediately. He and his son traveled north to Anuradhapura to gather supplies and take them to Trincomalee.

"We have a moral, ethical and social responsibility to help those in need," he said. Amarawansa is also director of outreach and international co-ordination for The Dharma Vijaya Temple, a local Buddhist temple. "The day after it hit, I called the temple and we started campaigning for funds."

The temple, officially endorsed by the Sri Lankan government, has a goal of raising \$2.5 million to build 1,000 homes in heavily-hit areas. So far, the temple has raised more than \$150,000.

alive," he said.

"Now, we need to do good

Volunteers from the temple left for Sri Lanka on Feb. 15 to survey and report back to the temple. Another group will follow with needed supplies for the restoration project.

"We plan to build about 50 houses, a community center and playground - a complete community," said Reverend Cintamani from the Temple.

Cintamani said the Temple is staying hands-on with the project because "we're not comfortable sending the money to big corporations ... we want to stay personally involved."

Most coastal cities in Sri Lanka were hit by the wave. In some areas, water washed up on land up to a mile. The tsunami reached the coasts of more than a dozen countries. Second only to Indonesia, Sri Lanka's estimated death toll is 45,000. The number is still rising.

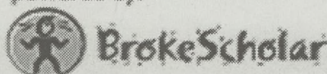
People are still dying from the aftermath of the wave. The World Health

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SPORTS

Men's Basketball Team Misses Playoffs Again

■ A Western State Conference official tells Monarchs the team will miss the post season.

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
SPORTS EDITOR

The men's basketball team was supposed to play its first playoff game today, but a Western State Conference official told the Monarchs Tuesday that the team would miss the post season.

After a 58-52 victory over the West Los Angeles Oilers last week, the Monarchs finished in second place in the Western State Conference. The team announced at game's end that it qualified for a Wednesday playoff game. But a call from WSC representative Sean Williamson scratched the team's plans.

"I feel bad for the guys in the team," said Head Coach Glen Hefferman. "But there is nothing we can do. I can move on, but the players can't."

The Western State Conference is the only league in a 13-league state that has only one team in the playoffs. Some conferences have as many as five teams headed to the playoffs.

"We got played," said sophomore Albert Ingram. "This is the second season this happened to us."

Valley tried to appeal the conference's decision.

"It is what it is, we can blame anyone but it is not going to do us any good," said Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero. "I called everyone all the way to the state commissioner, but it comes back to conference representative."

While the Monarchs got off to a rocky start this season, they still managed to take second place in the conference with a record of 9-3 in the conference and 14-14 over all.

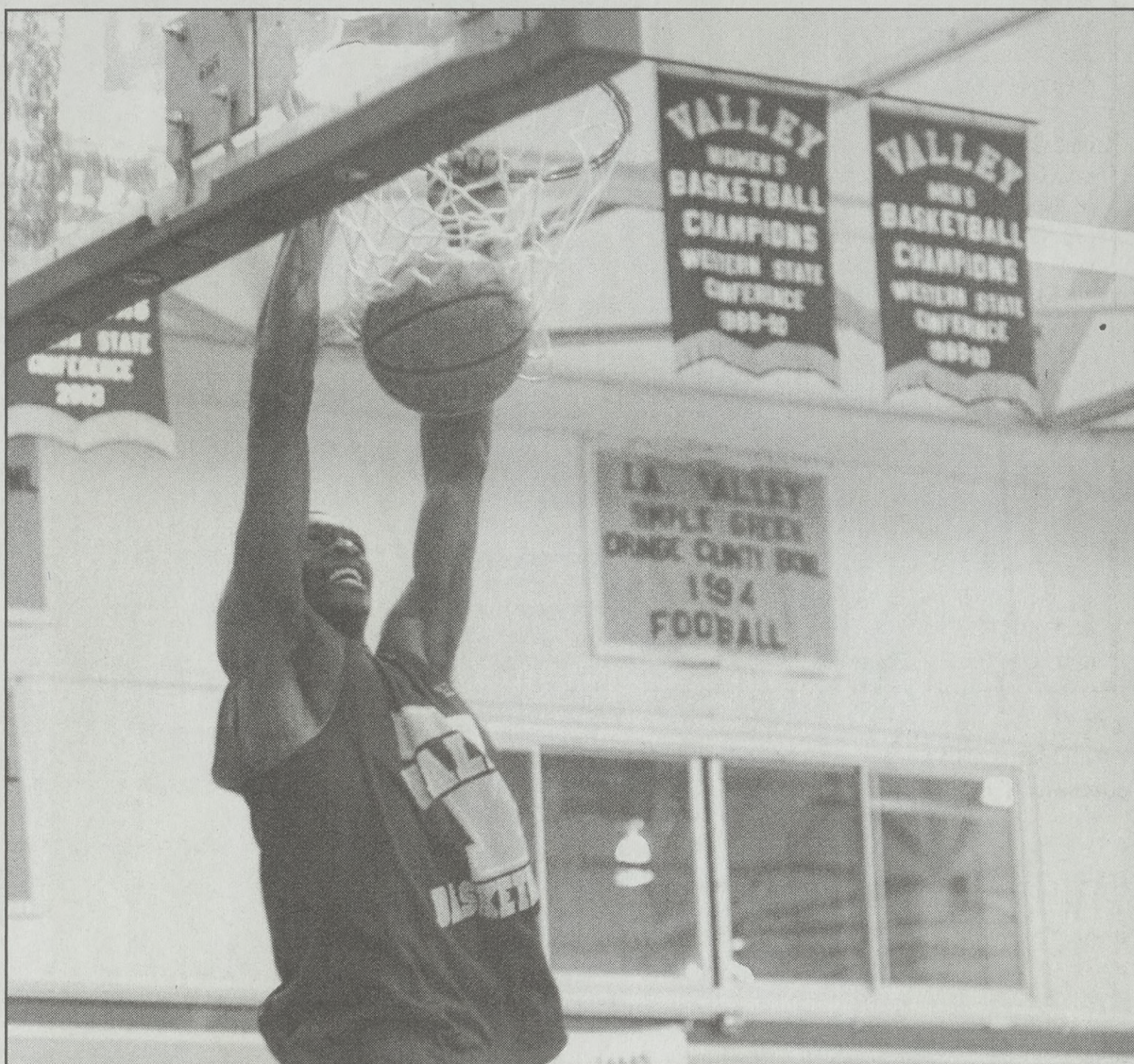
Last year the Monarchs failed to make it to the playoffs because the conference reduced the number of teams that could qualify.

With the new coach and mostly new players, Monarchs ended their season with an outstanding record of 9-3.

"In athletics, it is not how you start, but how you finish," said Ferrero.

"This was the most fun I had with a team," said Hefferman. "They kept getting better and better as we moved along."

"We're 9-3 in the conference, and every other second place team with a record as good as ours has saved themselves as spot," said Hefferman. I want to better my team next year I want to win all the 28 games next season."



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

TAKING A STRONG APPROACH - Monarch forward Jordan Rush goes in for the slam during the Monarchs' scrimmage Feb. 18 in the North Gym.

LAVC SCORES

W. Basketball vs. West LA (W54-61) 2/16/05
W. Basketball Record: 14-16, 4-8

M. Basketball vs. W. LA (52-58) 2/16/05
M. Basketball Record: 14-14, 9-3

Softball vs. Ventura
Cancelled 2/18/05
Softball Record: 6-2-1

Baseball vs. Mission
Cancelled 2/18/05
Baseball Record: 5-3

Track & Field WSC #1
(Second Place) 2/10/05

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 2/23/05
Softball @ Santa Ana 2:00 p.m.

Thursday 2/24/05
Softball vs. Cuesta 4:00 p.m.

Friday 2/25/05
Swimming vs. Ventura 2:30 p.m.

Saturday 2/26/05
Baseball vs. Mission 1:00 p.m.
Track & Field Cerritos Invit 10:00 a.m.

Sunday 2/27/05
No Scheduled Games

Monday 2/28/05
No Scheduled Games

Tuesday 3/1/05
Baseball @ Mission 2:00 p.m.
Softball @ Pierce 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday 3/2/05
Softball @ Santa Ana 2:00 p.m.



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

LEADER OF THE PACK - Sophomore Monarch guard Roxanna Quintero drives to the lane for the layup. Valley defeated West L.A. 61-54 to finish the season.

Lady Monarchs Finish Season With Win Over W.L.A. Oilers

■ Valley struggles throughout the season and fails to finish strong.

SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

It was too little too late for the Lady Monarchs' Basketball team last Wednesday. Ending its season with a disappointing 61-54 victory over the West Los Angeles Oilers, the team failed to make the playoffs for the first time in 10 seasons.

"Tonight's win was big for us," said sophomore center Jasmine Wesley (16 points, 7 rebounds). "This was our first win in the second half of the season and for us to end the season with a win was big."

Countless injuries and lack of veteran leadership played a tremendous role in the Lady Monarchs' season.

Point guard Roxy Quintero

and Wesley were the only players returning from last season's squad.

"[Wesley] and [Quintero] came up big for us this season," said Seja. "They worked very hard to try to keep this team focused and intact throughout the year."

Starting off the season with an impressive 6-1 record, the Monarchs faltered and failed to make the playoffs for the first time in 10 seasons while finishing with a 14-16 record.

Head coach Ruth Seja attributed the Monarchs' struggles to the team's lack of work ethic during the season.

"Basketball is about dedication and commitment," said Seja. "Not all of the girls on the team had the same amount of dedica-

tion that it takes to be successful during a season."

Seja also added that during the season, the Lady Monarchs failed to collectively get on the same page.

"This is the most disappointing season for me personally," explained Wesley. "We had so much talent on this team and it was sad seeing a number of players just fall off as the season progressed."

"It took a lot for all of us as a team to gel and come together, and it's a shame to see us not succeed," Wesley added.

Even with the sub-par finish, Seja remains optimistic for next season.

"I'm really excited for this team next season," said Seja.

Hefferman Working to Have Monarchs See "Red"

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College head basketball coach Glen Hefferman is pacing. It's five minutes before the Monarchs' tip-off against the Bakersfield Renegades, and he is walking up and down the sidelines, eyes fixed on his players as they warm up.

After a 77-57 blowout of the Renegades, Hefferman is grinning from ear to ear as one of his idols approaches.

"Great game, Red!" said retired Pasadena College George Terzian. "Your team is one of the most improved teams I've seen all year."

The Monarchs started the season 3-11 and now have a 9-3 record in conference and 14-14 record overall.

"I don't know why everyone calls me 'Red,'" Hefferman said. "But, I think it's because of my hair. When I was young, I used to have a whole bunch of red hair. And now, I only have a little bit of blond hair left."

Don't let Hefferman's playful demeanor fool you. This fiery coach is a strict disciplinarian who expects nothing short of success. He kicked Mike Martin, last year's leading scorer, off the team for discipline problems.

"It was difficult to let him go," Hefferman said. "He didn't listen and he thought he was bigger than the team."

Growing up in Chicago, Hefferman graduated from Von Steuben High School, where he always dreamed of playing professional basketball.

"I played college ball, but after my sophomore year, I realized that I wasn't good enough to play at the professional level," Hefferman said. "I started to watch games as a coach."

The Valley coach got his break as a senior in college when he took over the basketball program at Roosevelt High School when the full-time coach took a semester off. Hefferman more than doubled the team's wins from the previous year and finished the season with a 22-4 record.

"After that season, I decided that I want-

ed to make coaching a career," Hefferman said.

Before coming to Valley, Hefferman coached at the University of Illinois, Chicago State University, Loyola Chicago and Ball State, where he took a team to the sweet 16.

Sophomore forward Rendell Pegg said he likes what Hefferman brings to Valley.

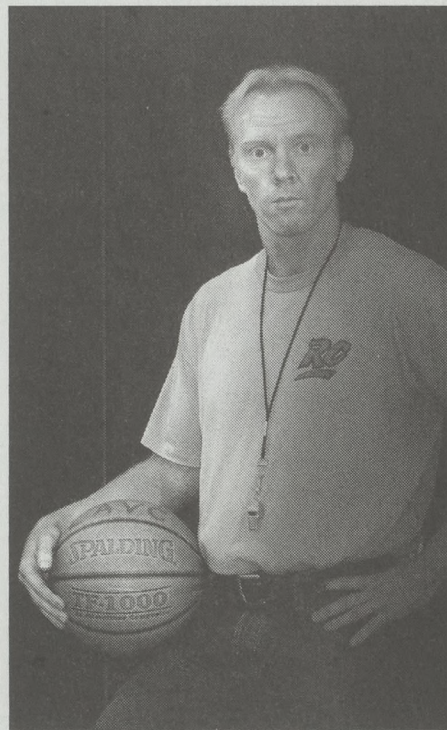
"He's brought a lot of discipline," Pegg said. "Last season, there wasn't much discipline. [Hefferman] demands respect."

Guard Albert Ingram said that his new coach works hard at his job and expects the same from his players.

"He doesn't mess around," Ingram said. "And if we mess up, we run."

Although Hefferman is a strict dictator on the court, it's a different story when off the clock. He likes to joke around.

"The only difference between basketball in Los Angeles and basketball in Chicago is quite simple," Hefferman said. "During Chicago's basketball season, you drive in the snow, while in L.A., you drive in the rain. That's the only difference."



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

MASTER AND COMMANDER - Coach Glen Hefferman in his first year with the Monarchs has give them new

GALLERY



CAUGHT OFF GUARD - Unprepared students face the rain.

GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR



WISE GUY - This young boy uses an umbrella to stay dry during the rain

GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR



SLIPPERY PACE - Commuters on the 101 Freeway brave the continuous downpour.

GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

WIPE OUT - Other drivers weren't so lucky when trying to cross the flooded intersection of San Fernando Road and Tuxford Street in Sun Valley leaving some cars stranded in tide.

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY

Layout
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Photos
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Text

by

Tiffany Farmakis

Saturated Californian's have had enough of the torrential downpours that have been plaguing the state since the beginning of the rainy season in July.

Flooded streets, traffic delays and power outages have become commonplace to many Los Angeles residents in the last couple of months.

Officials have reported that this has been the fifth-wettest season in California's history. The unrelenting rains have released a total of 31.40 inches nearing the 38.18 inch record set in 1883-1884. They have blamed El Nino, a cyclical oceanographic and meteorological phenomenon as the cause of the heavy rains.



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

THE DARK OF WINTER - Valley College students rough the bad weather conditions to trek to classes.